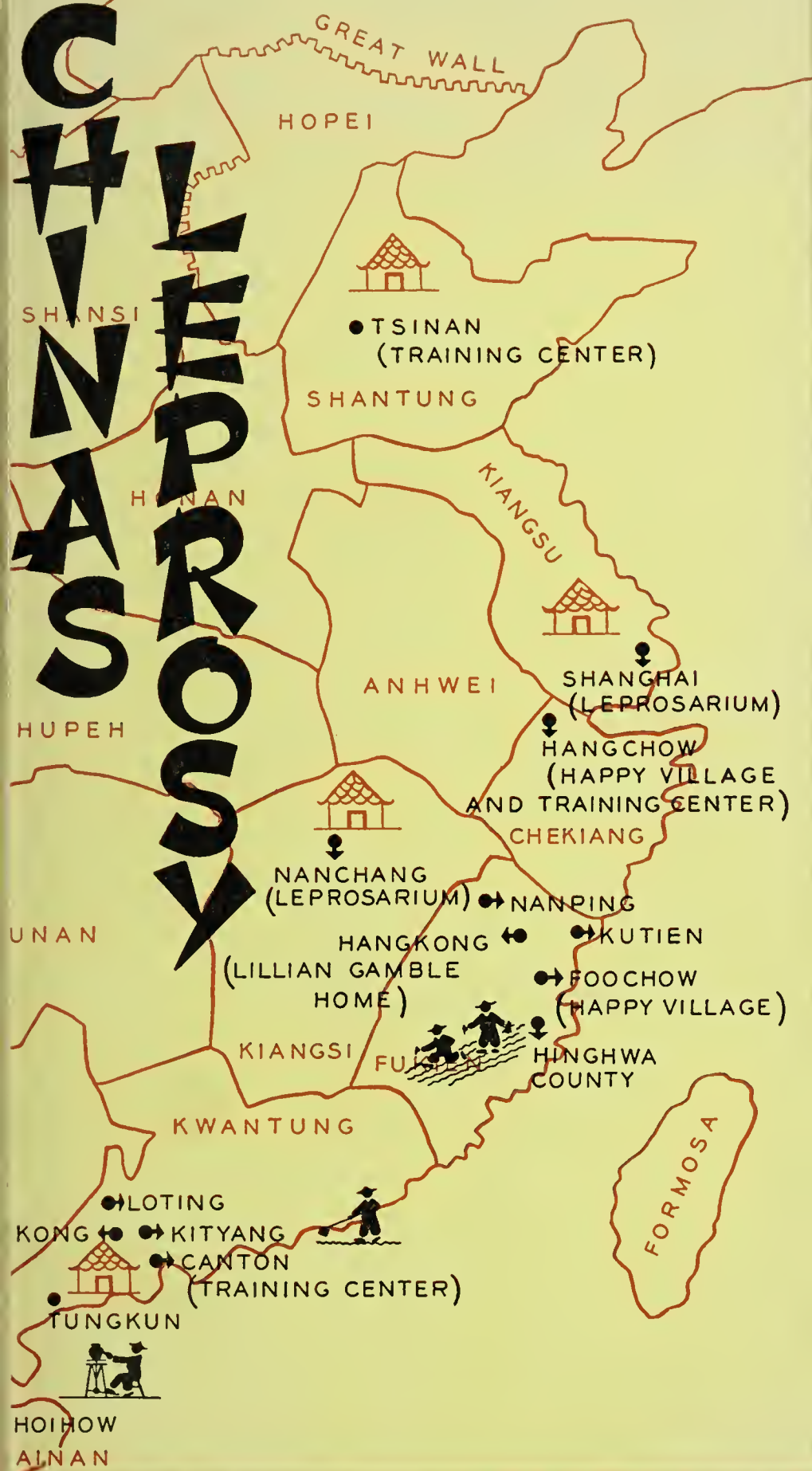


Pam
Lepers

China's Leprosy

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CHINA'S LEPROSY



THE GREAT NEED throughout China is for large centrally located agricultural leprosy colonies—to serve also as demonstration teaching centers for medical students and Christian workers—where patients may live like human beings, secure in the knowledge that God loves them and their children too.

Eugene R. Kellersberger, M.D.
General Secretary, American Mission
to Lepers, Incorporated.



Since 1887

On beautiful Pine Hill in Hangchow, stands the monument to the lifetime work of a great missionary pioneer, Dr. Duncan Main. Founded in 1887, the Kwangchi Leprosy Hospital is probably the oldest leprosarium in China. In the same year that marked the founding of the Kwangchi Hospital, another leprosy institution was founded under Christian auspices at Pakhoi in the Province of Kwangtung. Since then the efforts of Christian churches and Christian missionaries in China have brought about the establishment of many missions of mercy to those unfortunate folk who suffer from leprosy.

FIFTY YEARS

Throughout China, in ten provinces, are more than a score of leprosy missions aided by the American Mission to Lepers, and also many others which are the responsibility of the Mission to Lepers of London. On Hainan Island, in the extreme South, is the Presbyterian colony of 100⁺ patients at Hoi How. Far in the North China province of Kansu is the Lanchow Leprosarium of the China Inland Mission whose patients are Chinese, Moslem, and Tibetan—some from the neighboring Tsinghai Province where no leprosy work exists and where treatment of those whose cases are advanced is extremely harsh and unmerciful.

In China's West are the colonies at Kiulungkiang and Chengtu. And in Fukien province Methodist missionaries carry on a physical and spiritual ministry sadly limited by inadequacies in resources and personnel in a number of villages where those who suffer from what they regard as a

"living death" are assigned to live in exile and wretched poverty by local authorities. These are a few of China's Christian leprosy missions—East, West, North, South—and there are others which will be described in detail elsewhere.

WAR

Eight years of war have done much to disrupt the Christian leprosy program in China. Missionaries were withdrawn or interned. Local support was suspended. Medical supplies were unobtainable. Patients suffered from lack of food and other necessities of life. Some left the colonies to live by begging. Patients who could, fled before the invading armies to places of safety. Those who were not able to flee lived as was possible by the grace of the conquerors. About 25 patients were killed and as many wounded when the Swatow Leprosarium, an English Presbyterian institution in Kwangtung, was bombed. The Nanchang Leprosarium suffered the loss of its chapel. The Shanghai Leprosarium was forced to evacuate its patients four times during the war years.

AND NOW — PEACE

The past two years have been a time of binding up the wounds of war. Missionaries have gone back to their posts; medical supplies have been made available. War damage to buildings is being repaired. It is a time of planning and prayer for the restoration of a uniquely Christian ministry—a ministry to China's men and women and children with leprosy.

Leprosy village at Kiulungkiang.



ONE MILLION LEPROSY VICTIMS

The incidence of leprosy in China is one of the highest in the world. In Kwangtung and Kweichow provinces, the leprosy rate is believed to be between two and four persons per thousand population. In the province of Fukien, the disease is so prevalent, and so much feared, that segregation of victims in wretched squatter villages is rigorously enforced. Inmates are given a small amount of financial support—an amount so small that they are compelled to keep together crippled bodies and despairing souls by begging in the neighboring cities.

Kiangsu and Shantung provinces also have areas where leprosy is widespread, as do the northern provinces of Kansu and Tsinghai, and far western Szechwan. Altogether there are, by the barest minimum estimate, one million cases of leprosy in China.

CHINESE MISSION TO LEPERS

Twenty years ago, at the initiative of the American Mission to Lepers, the Chinese Mission to Lepers with headquarters in Shanghai, was organized. Its early efforts under the leadership of Dr. T. C. Wu and other Chinese Christian leaders gave rise to the establishment of locally founded, locally supported institutions at Shanghai, at Nanchang, at Sinhwa, and elsewhere.

A decade of war and postwar dislocation has hampered the outreach of the Chinese Mission to Lepers beyond the vicinity of Shanghai. However, local and provincial committees have now been organized in Canton, Foochow, and Hangchow. It is hoped that the coordination of these and other regional efforts may bring about the formation of a vigorous nationwide Chinese organization for the prevention and control of leprosy.

DOORS WIDE OPEN

Everywhere throughout China there is friendliness to the aims of the Christian churches in their program for the eradication of the great preventable tragedy of leprosy. Government authorities have shown lively interest and greatest goodwill. The attitude of the National Health Administration is cordial and cooperative.

However, it is a time of deep political and economic crisis for the Nationalist Government of China, and the American Mission to Lepers cannot count on more than moral help from the government in prosecuting its plans.

When times are more propitious, wider government action can be expected in providing facilities and maintenance for China's neediest of the needy.

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

In the mission program of the Christian churches for China, the problem of leprosy looms large.

It looms large because with few exceptions no work in China among those with leprosy is being done except at the initiative of the Christian churches and the Christian community. It looms large because war has crippled the Christian leprosy program and in its effectiveness it lags behind what has been done in other mission fields, behind what has been proved possible through scientific medicine and missionary experience.

Leprosy missions, like medical missions, are an integral part of the Christian witness in China—a witness to the mercy and compassion of Christ, and the mercy and compassion of those who follow in His steps.

A group of child and women patients.



A TRAVELOGUE OF LEPROSY MISSIONS

CHEKIANG

Hangchow

Anglican Church

One of the oldest Christian leprosy missions in China and the only one in Chekiang Province, it cares for about 75 patients. During the war years of isolation, patients showed great fortitude and strength of Christian faith. The generosity of Chinese Christian friends and the inspiration of Mr. K. L. Dzen made continuation of the work possible during the war years and are now making possible the establishment of a 200 acre Happy Village community on a new site.

FUKIEN

Foochow

Interdenominational

On the outskirts of this provincial capital, at East Gate and West Gate, are two squatter leprosy colonies with populations of 250 and 400 respectively where in the past missionaries have maintained a limited physical and spiritual ministry. A committee of citizens, church leaders, and government representatives was formed recently to work toward the establishment of more adequate agricultural colony on a suitable site outside the city limits. A prominent member of this committee is Dr. Harold N. Brewster of the Willis F. Pierce Memorial Hospital, a Methodist-Congregational institution.

Hinghwa County

Methodist & Anglican

A local committee representing the two church bodies has been formed to carry out a union program for leprosy work in five leprosy villages in the Hinghwa area, covering two counties. The program, under the jurisdiction of Dr. M. K. Yue of St. Luke's Hospital, Putien, calls for weekly visits to these villages and the establishment of clinics.

Kutien

Methodist Church

Opened in 1936, the Kutien leprosy work is in connection with the Wiley General Hospital.

Nanping

Methodist Church

The Westminster Leprosarium, with Dr. G. L. Downie as superintendent, has 37 patients, including 10 outpatients.

KANSU

Kaolan

China Inland Mission

On the northern bank of the Yellow River, the Lanchow Leprosy Hospital has accommodations for 70 patients. Under discouraging economic conditions, much courageous work is being done. The patients themselves show a good spirit. Many find hope and comfort in the Christian gospel, and are very close and diligent students of the Scriptures.

KIANGSI

Nanchang **Chinese Mission to Lepers**

Before the war the Nanchang Leprosarium was a neat efficient colony of 150 patients on 50 acres of land, its twelve buildings—and the lives of its patients—centering around a small Anglican chapel. Though crippled by the war years the Leprosarium, under the inspired leadership of Rev. H. K. Kimber Den, cares for approximately 100 patients with the help of the American Mission to Lepers.

KIANGSU

Shanghai **Chinese Mission to Lepers**

The Shanghai Leprosarium, six miles outside the city limits, has 60 inmates. Patients help with the clinical work, gardening, and other activities connected with the administration of the colony.

KWANTUNG

Canton **Lingnan University**

In connection with the Medical School of Lingnan University, a leprosy training center will be set up at Canton in the near future. Dr. N. Chang, formerly of St. Luke's Hospital, Shanghai, is engaged in an eighteen month period of specialized study and observation pending his appointment to the Medical School Staff to head the program.

Kityang **Northern Baptist Convention**

In prewar days the Kityang clinics, established by Dr. Marguerite Everham in cooperation with the Bixby Memorial Hospital, had a weekly attendance of 170 patients. Under the leadership of Dr. William E. Braisted, a vigorous reconstruction program is under way to reopen the discontinued clinics.

Loting **Reformed Presbyterian Church**

Founded in 1918, the Pok-Oi Hospital Leprosy Home under the leadership of Rev. J. C. Mitchel, has accommodations for 36 inmates. A tract of land is available for the cultivation of rice and vegetables, and patients grow most of their food supplies. Daily meetings of inspiration and Bible study are an integral part of the colony's program.

Samkong **Cicero Bible Church**

One of the youngest leprosy missions, it was founded by the veteran China missionary, Rev. Warren Winter, on a beautiful mountain site outside the market city of Samkong. A men's hospital, a dormitory, and a church with clinic rooms have been built, and plans are in the making for a small hospital for women patients. The neighboring Presbyterian hospital at Linhsien cooperates with Mr. Winter in the medical care of patients.

Tungkun **Rhenish (Lutheran) Mission**

During World War I, this German Rhenish Mission, located between Canton and Hongkong, was carried on by non-German missionaries with American aid. During the 1920s it was again supported by German Lutherans, and to some extent by local and provincial government funds. In the 1930s, all help from these sources was cut off, and since 1938 funds for its support have come from Ameri-

can Protestants through the American Mission to Lepers—approximately \$10,000 annually.

HAINAN ISLAND

Hoi How **Presbyterian, U .S. A.**

Drs. Nathaniel Bercovitz and Esther Morse, Presbyterian missionaries, have returned to this municipal colony of 125 patients which was cut off from Mission support and missionaries' services since Pearl Harbor. Located on 173 acres of rather poor land, it cannot fully support its patient population. The American Mission to Lepers supplies an annual maintenance fund and medical supplies.

KWEICHOW

Pichieh **China Inland Mission**

Dr. and Mrs. E. S. Fish give leadership to this colony of more than 200 patients, of whom more than half are Christians. Its buildings include dormitories, a church, a dispensary and laboratory building, and a preventorium for healthy children of patients. A fine Christian spirit prevails. During a single year, 33 patients were baptized.

SHANTUNG

Tsinan **Shantung Christian University**

A province-wide training center for leprosy prevention and control is planned for Tsinan.

Located south of the university campus, a group of hospital buildings accommodating 60 patients was built with funds from the Mission to Lepers of London in 1926.

SZECHWAN

Chengtu **West China Union University**

Also planned as a leprosy training center, the Chengtu work consists of a small hospital for 45 patients, faithfully administered by Dr. and Mrs. Wallace Crawford.

YUNNAN

Kiulungkiang **Presbyterian, U. S. A.**

This mission station, in the extreme Southwest of China, consists of five self-sustaining, self-governing colonies, the largest of which is Ban Ann. Mission property was greatly damaged during the war and has not been fully restored. A young medical worker, Nai Ai Kaan, who carried on what medical work was possible during the war years in the absence of the missionaries, is now at McCormick Hospital, Chiengmai, receiving medical training which will fit him for his future medical work at Kiulungkiang.

Lunan **Assemblies of God**

Rev. A. G. Johnson returned to Lunan in the fall of 1947 to resume work at the county leprosy home interrupted by the war. He found the number of residents reduced to 17 and their physical and spiritual well-being woefully neglected. The colony is located in fertile agricultural country and will shortly begin to produce some of its food requirements. The erection of a clinic and a chapel is planned for the near future.

A LEPROSY PROGRAM

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TSINAN

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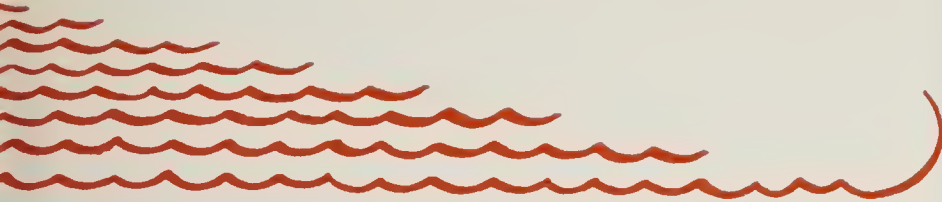
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LEPROSY MISSIONS

ON TO LEPERS, INCORPORATED

...y of the Protestant churches of America
...al and spiritual ministry to persons with
... American Mission provides buildings,
... clothing, and maintenance to twenty
...cts. A similar program is supported by
... churches through the Mission to Lepers
...ctical and desirable the two agencies
...out their common aims.

SAVING THE CHILDREN

Strange as it may seem, leprosy is largely a children's disease. It is usually, perhaps always, contracted in childhood.


Only a few, almost indiscernible signs betray its presence in the early stages. It incubates in the body of a child for one year, for two years—at times as long as thirty years before it becomes virulent, before ugly sores appear and limbs wither away. In the meantime, those who as children were exposed to infection are themselves parents—parents with leprosy. Once more the vicious circle begins!

What is to be done? What is the Christian answer to this problem, the problem of saving the children before they have leprosy; of arresting the disease while there is still time?

The answer is Christian preventive medicine.

PREVENTABLE

Leprosy is the most easily preventable disease in the world. It can be detected early. It can be arrested before the victim becomes crippled, deformed. With recently developed drugs, by good physical care and the mental therapy of the Christian faith, leprosy victims can be spared much pain and spiritual anguish.



**A call to worship
at the Tungkun
Rhenish Lutheran Mission.**

INTO THE HOMES

Unfortunately what is known about the prevention of leprosy has not been generally put in to practice in China. Facilities for the care of leprosy patients before they are crippled and deformed are sadly lacking. Much of the Christian leprosy work carried on at the present time is concerned with the care of those patients to whom help has come too late—the "burnt out" cases of leprosy. This is a ministry of mercy and love, but it is not enough. It is necessary to go into the villages where leprosy victims in infectious stages are mingling with healthy people; into homes where leprosy is being transmitted from parents to children.

It is necessary to provide safe homes for healthy children of parents with leprosy, and pleasant communities where dangerous cases of leprosy can live and work without spreading their disease to others. It is necessary to find the children bearing those early tell-tale signs of the disease which will ruin their lives—now before it is too late!

To help Christian leprosy missions in China achieve the means of this wider aspect of their ministry, to rid China of the tragedy of leprosy by saving the children, is the most important aim of the American Mission to Lepers.

**From parents
to children,
a vicious circle.**



HAPPY VILLAGES FOR CHINA

There is a great need, throughout China, and particularly in the provinces of Kwangtung, Fukien, Shantung, Yunnan, and Kweichow, for the establishment of agricultural leprosy communities, and it is the aim of the American Mission to Lepers to help those colonies which exist now merely as asylums or refuge homes for "burnt out" cases to develop along lines found unusually successful in India, and Africa as "Happy Villages."

Four Happy Villages are in process of development in China: at Chengtu, at Hangchow, at Foochow, and at Tungkun. In a large measure, the Tungkun colony is already a Happy Village though it lacks land for the development of an agricultural program. At Hangchow land has been given by members of the Christian community. At Foochow and Chengtu negotiations for the acquisition of large tracts are proceeding.

A CHURCH — A SCHOOL

What is a Happy Village? A Happy Village is a community, like any other community, with a church, a school, and a hospital; with homes for those who live there, and fields where crops are planted and harvested. Its citizens are carpenters, herdsmen, teachers, nurses, evangelists. It is like any other village — except in one particular: that those who live there have leprosy.

The advantages of Happy Villages over other provisions for the care of leprosy victims are many. Patients are happy functioning members of a self-sufficient, self-governing, and largely self-supporting

community. It is no longer necessary for them to beg in order to live. They are no longer outcast, feared, despised. They have homes, friends, and an opportunity to know the fellowship of Jesus Christ. All these factors are conducive to developing in the Happy Villager a healthy state of mind and physical well-being important to his recovery.

Moreover, in a Happy Village where patients can provide by their own efforts some of their own needs, more persons can be cared for and the effectiveness of the Christian leprosy program is multiplied again and again.

VILLAGE AT TUNGKUN

What can be done has already been demonstrated to a great extent at the German Rhenish Mission at Tungkun, forty miles outside Canton. There close to 100 patients live in simple comfort and self-respect on the site of an ancient graveyard where the living dead of forty years ago found shelterless refuge at night and where, during the long days, they sat beside the high road begging alms.

The scarcity of land has made it difficult for the Tungkun Mission to obtain enough land to support its population by agriculture, but its shortcomings in this respect have been overcome in other ways. An industrial program has been developed for the patients. They make pottery, water pipes, and blue tile that is famous throughout China.

There is a strong Christian program at Tungkun, a happy spirit of fellowship and community cooperation. Needs of the child patients receive particular attention, and the dependent healthy children of patients are carefully guarded from infection.

LEPROSY TRAINING CENTERS

The key to the Christian program for the prevention and control of leprosy in China is the development of regional leprosy training centers. There doctors and nurses, public health and church workers, teachers and other layman, may have an opportunity to study the facts about leprosy, how it is contracted, how it is prevented, how it is treated. Ultimately they will help in setting up village clinics where early cases and non-infectious ones can be found and cared for.

TSINAN

In the early 30s the Mission to Lepers of London gave to Shantung Christian University at Tsinan, Shantung Province, a leprosy hospital to be used as a training center for medical students. Its function in this capacity suffered during the war years, though it continued to house about 60 patients. Since the war's end full management of the hospital has reverted to the University and there is every prospect that it will once more fulfill its original function as a study and observation center. The University has on its staff an outstanding leprologist, Dr. H. J. Smyly.

The first need of the University leprosarium even before it can become a training center is for a hospital unit to accommodate women and children and to



**Regular medical
care is important.**

offer clinical study material in this neglected aspect of leprosy control. The American Mission to Lepers has already allocated a sum for this purpose. Also needed is additional land near the hospital in order that patients may have wholesome outdoor work to do. Building repairs and reequipment are urgent, as well as restoration of the hospital's crippled water supply system.

CHENG TU

The West China Union University at Chengtu in Szechwan Province, the Texas of China, will be a second leprosy training center. Nowhere is the need greater or the conditions more favorable for the establishment of such a center. The University's medical school, school of dentistry, hospital, nurses' training school, departments of public health and preventive medicine are among the finest in all China. The Province, with its sixty million people, is a vast fertile land of promise. Yet throughout Szechwan there is only one leprosarium. Located at Chengtu, it is a fine, well-kept institution, with its sixty million people, is a vast fertile dens and poultry farm lands. But it has accommodations for only 45 men and boy patients! The great need here is for the development of a large model agricultural Happy Village, and the use of its facilities to demonstrate that leprosy is preventable, that it can be controlled, that it can, indeed, be cured. Also necessary is the appointment of a Chinese Christian leprologist to the staff of the West China Union University.

nderlying all,
Christian program.



CANTON

The need for a leprosy training center in Kwangtung Province is particularly great. The incidence of leprosy is high—higher perhaps than anywhere else in China. Christian leprosy missions exist at Tungkun, Kityang, Loting, and elsewhere throughout the province, and the time is ripe for an organized leprosy prevention and control program. The development of a leprosy training center in connection with the medical school of Lingnan University at Canton is therefore a task of first importance. Pending is the appointment of a Chinese Christian leprologist to head the program. Coordination of the work of existing leprosy missions through the training center is in prospect, as the result of the organization, recently, of a Kwangtung Association for the Control and Prevention of Leprosy.

HANGCHOW

In Chekiang Province the American Mission to Lepers is negotiating with the Hangchow Provincial Medical School for the establishment of a similar leprosy training center to be developed under the direction of Dr. Stephen D. Sturton of the Church Mission Society Hospital at Hangchow. An institution-type leprosy home—for 75 patients—exists at the present time, but a large tract of land has been given by members of the Christian community for a model Happy Village community for about 200 patients.

The existing program for training medical students will be expanded to include lay-training opportunities for those who will carry the leprosy prevention and control program into the villages and rural areas of the province.

THE EXPERIENCE OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES and the advance of medical science have pointed out effective methods of leprosy prevention and control.

There is still a vast need—for missionary leadership, for leprosy specialists, for the physical means of establishing Happy Villages and leprosy training centers. There is a great need, on the part of us all, for selfless devotion to the aims of the Christian leprosy program in China, for generous giving, and prayer.

The needs are many, but the road ahead is clearly marked. With the help of Him Whose example gives us vision and a goal—the future is promising!



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